



Weekly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2, July 2020

Announcement

World Hepatitis Day, July 28th 2020

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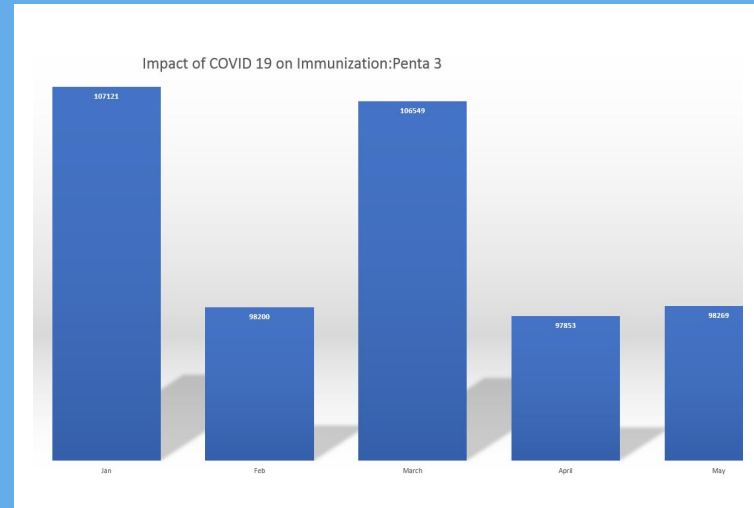
Lowered Prices for MDR-TB Medication-Bedaquiline

Impact of Covid-19 on Immunization Services in Kenya

KANCO in collaboration with the National Vaccines and Immunization Programme (NVIP) held a webinar looking at the impact of COVID 19 on immunization services in Kenya on the 17th of July 2020.

Making his opening remarks, Allan Ragi the Executive Director KANCO, impressed that immunization is a shared responsibility that should be shared by National and County government, government sectors, community groups, health practitioners, drug manufacturers and pharmacist, research bodes, Media etc. He added that immunization is an essential service that should be offered at all times, even under the pandemic by seeking innovative ways to deliver it to the communities, failure to which communities face compounded challenges 'Immunization is a Multi-stakeholder responsibility and together we must address the current challenges, with the understanding that communities make a difference, leverage current resources, support the Community Health Workers and sustain advocacy efforts for efficient and resilient health systems '

Sharing on the impact of pandemic on immunization Dr. Jalango, National Vaccines and Immunization Programme (NVIP), observed that there is a general decline on the uptake of immunization and child health services citing: diversion of resources to address Covid-19, fear, challenges of access due to socio-economic challenges and the government regulation including the curfew, myths & misconception around immunization, perception of immunization as not among essential services mainly by health care providers, limited resources for CHWs etc. ' Over 1000 Health facilities offering immunization closed due COVID-19, 25% of facilities faced challenges accessing vaccines and in terms of client reach, 26%,of all the facilities reported usual operations, 66% reduced



Operations and 8% increased operations.' she stated.

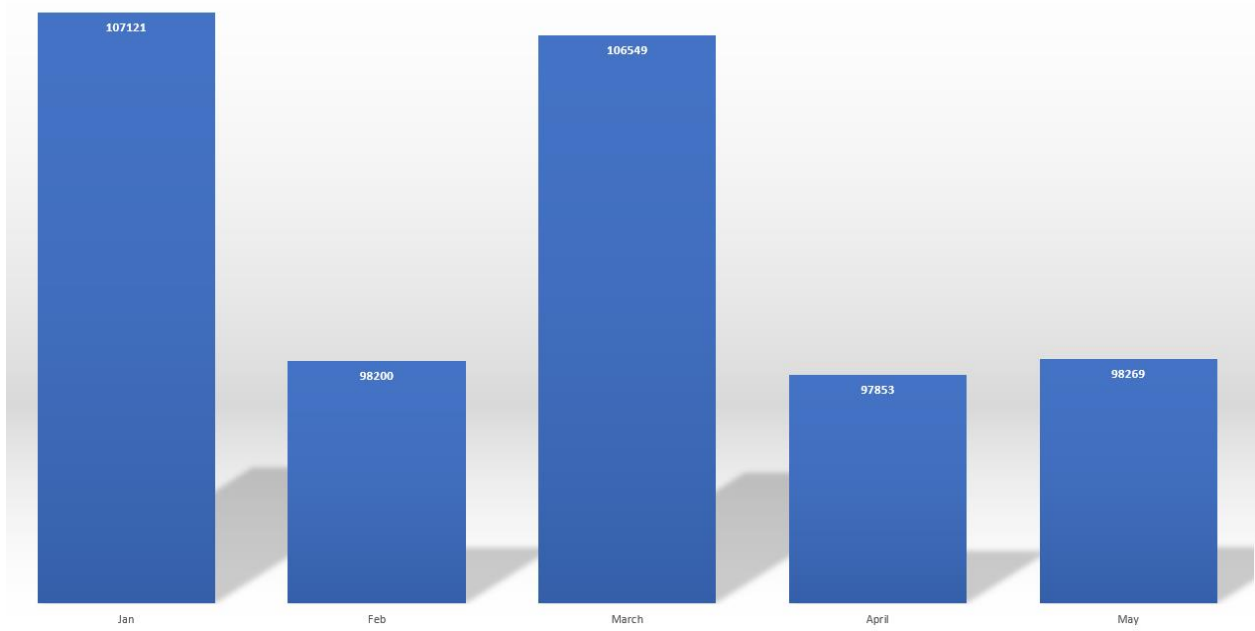
Jack Ndegwa, the Head of Health Systems and Policy KANCO, sharing on the CSOs perspective on immunization observed, "With the traditional immunization programs challenges compounded by the pandemic we face greater setbacks to the realization of GVAP, ADI, SDGs as well as National and Child Health Progress." He called on the need to improve and innovate as we face the pandemic, CSOs responsiveness and flexibility, evidence generation and continued advocacy

Sharing on the community health care workers experiences, Pastor Karanja, the chairperson CHVs network Nairobi County, stated that communities are facing multiple challenges affecting immunization uptake indulging: fear of being tested and taken to quarantine, the perception that's vaccines are not safe, exacerbated socio-economic challenges due to the pandemic etc. He however noted that the biggest challenge being faced by CHWs is the lack of remuneration with the current bill still pending one year later and the CHVs feel used, unappreciated and unequipped.

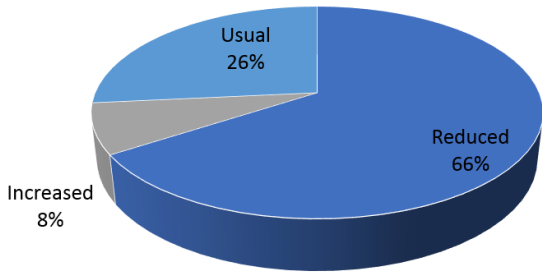
In conclusion, Mr. Ragi called on the need for meaningful involvement of communities and the need to support CHVs in line with the new policies to facilitate an effective response

Impact of Covid-19 on Immunization

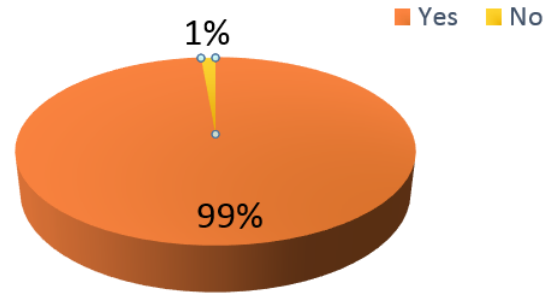
Impact of COVID 19 on Immunization:Penta 3



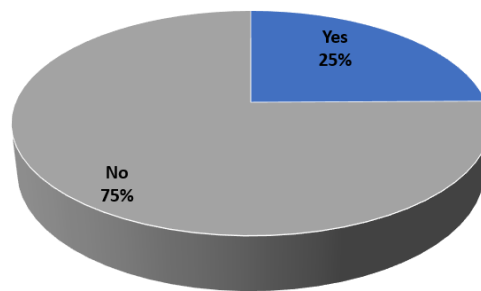
Client Flow during the COVID 19 Pandemic for immunization services



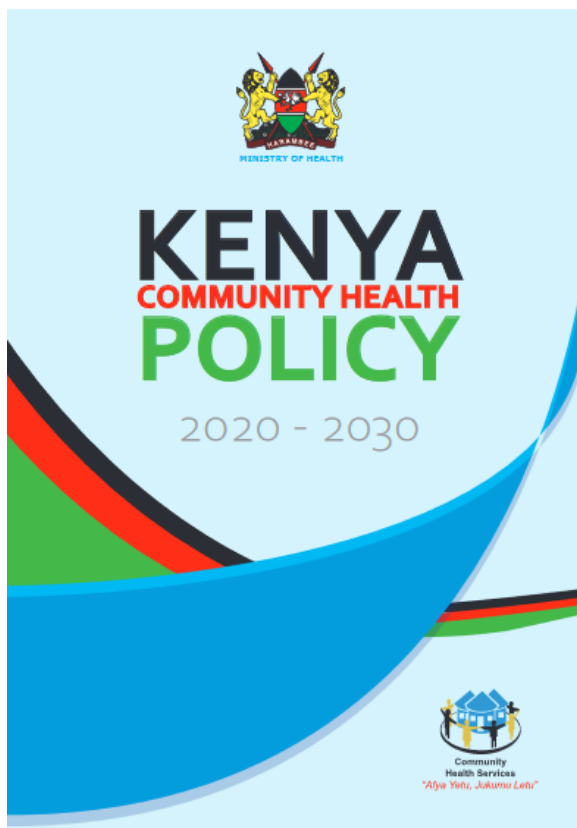
Status of routine immunization in health facilities:



Vaccine distribution challenges



Kenya Launches Primary Health Care Policies



The Ministry of Health Kenya on 16th July 2020, launched the [Primary Healthcare Strategic Framework 2019-2024](#) and [Community Health Services policy 2020-2030](#). The two documents are towards supporting primary healthcare as the country continues to provide responsive health services amid the pandemic.

Addressing the meeting Mutahi Kagwe, cabinet secretary Health, observed that for Kenya to achieve UHC, there has to be robust primary healthcare that is efficient, reliable and equitable while cushioning against financial hardships. "These two documents will bring healthcare closer to people and give broader focus on preventing diseases, promoting healthy behavior and addressing the drivers of ill health," he stated. He added that the government is working towards a hundred percent community health unit coverage nationally.

According to Kagwe, the community health services policy 2020-2030 will lead to a better leadership and governance of community health services at both national and county levels and will help in greater investment in the primary health care services.

He further impressed on the need for communities to work together toward combating the pandemic.

The two documents will go a long way in supporting the health response within the pandemic and beyond.

Lowered Prices for MDR-TB Medication- Bedaquiline



TB kills 1.5 million people each year, more than any other infectious disease. The war against TB has been ongoing with the WHO reporting significant reduction in the death incidence over the past few years attributed efforts to find people with TB early and provide appropriate treatment in TB high-burden countries.

However, there has been a growing resistance to the most commonly used drugs is compounding this public health challenge. 2018, saw nearly 500,000 new cases of Drug Resistant TB (DR-TB) a disease that has become a leading contributor to deaths from antimicrobial resistance.

It's against this background that the news on the reduction of the cost of Bedaquiline was greatly received by delegates across the globe. Civil society organization including KANCO and ACTION Global Health Partnership with the leadership of MSF were pushing for lower prices for this MDR-TB drugs. Bedaquiline will be critical as countries seek to transition from injecting to the non-injecting regimen for TB. Through the GDF, the pro-rated prices

for Bedaquiline is now US\$272 for a 6 months, or \$1.50 a day, close to the advocates proposed price of \$1, from the initial \$3,000, then \$900, then \$400, and now \$272 through GDF for middle-income countries

Launching the new policy that introduces the Injection free regime, earlier last week Health Chief Administrative Secretary, Rashid Aman shared that the new regimen is more effective than the daily shots and drugs previously used. He added that the drug will be accessible and affordable, adding that people with TB deserve access to the best, simplest and least-toxic treatment regimens.

In Kenya the Ministry of health has shared that the regimen will only be administered to new patients who will be given a three month drug supply and that it will go a long way in the management of TB.

Civil societies are advocating for the use of these new policies in the development of the Global Fund Request that is due August 2020

Weekly Pictorials



Clockwise; KANCO GAVI-HSS Project Implementing Partners Garissa County SIMAHO, elected leaders immunization sensitization meeting, held this week. The call was greater investment for sustainable immunization services now and as the country prepares for transition. The meeting was highlighted by a national TV.



Community Health Workers sensitization on COVID-19, in Machakos County hosted by KANCO in partnership with the Ministry of Health

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